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PAGE 01 KARACHI 00311 180732Z

21
ACTION SY-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-13 FBI-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01
DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 RSR-01 VO-02 SCA-01 EUR-20 L-03
INS-03 /086 W
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R 180550Z FEB 70
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4259
AMEMBASSY RAWALPINDI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ KARACHI 311

NEW DELHI FOR RSO

1. THIS MESSAGE DEALS WITH ALLEGED PLOT BY PALESTINIANS TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT NIXON. SOURCE IS ONE IFTIKHAR ILAHI RANA WHO INTERVIEWED BY POLITICAL OFFICER AT CONGEN IN ABSENCE OF SECURITY OFFICER WHOM HE SOUGHT TO SEE. RANA IS UNKNOWN TO US AND WE CANNOT EVALUATE HIS TALE. HE CLAIMS HE APPROACHED SECURITY OFFICER HERE TWO YEARS AGO AFTER ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION WITH DETAILS ABOUT SIRHAN.

2. ACCORDING RANA, ELEVEN MEMBERS OF AL-ASIFA RECENTLY COMPLETED SMALL-ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TRAINING IN DUBAI. OF THESE, FIVE HAVE ASSASSINATION MISSIONS IN ISRAEL AND REMAINDER IN US, WHERE PRESIDENT AND "OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS" ARE TARGETS. ALL ELEVEN AT PRESENT "ON LEAVE" BUT MEMBERS OF U.S.-BOUND GROUP ARE TO PROCEED TO CITIES IN EUROPE AFTER TEN DAYS TO GAIN FAMILIARIZATION WITH LIFE IN WESTERN URBAN CENTERS. IN MID-SUMMER, THOSE SCHEDULED FOR U.S. WILL BEGIN ENTERING COUNTRY SEPARATELY FROM VARIOUS POINTS USING FALSE PASSPORTS. ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT SET FOR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER.

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PAGE 02 KARACHI 00311 180732Z

3. ACCORDING RANA, ALL ELEVEN HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED IN DUBAI BY ONE ZAKARIA YAHYA, AN EGYPTIAN WHO IS ACCOUNTANT WITH SOMETHING CALLED DUBAI REFRESHMENT COMPANY. RANA UNABLE NAME ALL ELEVEN TRAINEES. HE DOES, HOWEVER, GIVE FOLLOWING NAMES: RASHID TAHA, DESCRIBED AS GROUP'S "LEADER". LUTFI KARAME, ALI BIN ALI, YOUSEF AND ABDUL HAKIM. HE SAYS FIRST FOUR ARE PALESTINIANS AND FIFTH IS IRAQI.

4. RANA, WHO VERY POORLY DRESSED, CLAIMS HE IS PETTY TRADER DOING BUSINESS BETWEEN KARACHI AND DUBAI. QUESTIONED AS TO NATURE OF BUSINESS HE DOES - CLOTH, WATCHES, ETC. - IT SEEMS HE MAY BE INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING. THIS IS INDICATED BY HIS STATEMENT THAT HE NO LONGER USES TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND BY HIS REFERENCES TO USE OF LAUNCHES IN HIS TRAVELS (EITHER DIRECTLY TO AJMAN FROM KARACHI OR, AFTER TRAVELLING OVERLAND TO IRAN, FROM BANDAR ABBAS TO AJMAN). HE CLAIMS HE GAINED CONFIDENCE OF TRAINEES DURING DRINKING SESSIONS IN DUBAI WHICH RESULT HIS OWN GENEROSITY.

5. RANA SAYS HE IS PUNJABI WHO SPRINGS FROM SIALKOT. SAYS DECEASED FATHER'S NAME WAS MIAN FAZAL ILAHI, WHO RETIRED AS TEHSILDAR (PETTY GOVERNMENT SERVANT) FROM PUNJAB GOVERNMENT. HE SAYS KARACHI ADDDRESS IS A-435, BLOCK L(ELL), NORTH NAZIMABAD.

6. RANA QUESTIONED AS TO MOTIVES FOR REPORTING THIS INFORMATION. HE CLAIMED THAT WHILE HE SUPPORTS ARABS AGAINST ISRAEL, HE ALSO ANTI-COMMUNIST AND THUS NOT ANTI-U.S. PALESTINIANS ARE "SOCIALIST" AND THUS BE WILLING TO BLOCK THEIR ACTIVITIES IN U.S.

COMMENT:

THE DEPT. AND THE EMBASSY WILL RECOGNIZE THE DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOURCE IS ENGAGING IN FANTASY. WERE IT NOT FOR THE SERIOUSNESS OF HIS STATEMENTS WE WOULD BE MOST HESITANT TO REPORT SUCH FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM A SOURCE ABOUT WHOSE CREDIBILITY WE KNOW NOTHING. PERHAPS CAS RAWALPINDI

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PAGE 03 KARACH 00311 180732Z

MAY BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN CHECKING IN THE
PERSON OF MR. RANA. PERHAPS SY ALREADY HAS A FILE ON
HIM.
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